



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

## Special City Council Worksession

### October 27, 2015

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Goettel at 6:00 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

*Council Members Present:* Debbie Goettel, Mayor; Pat Elliott; Edwina Garcia; Tom Fitzhenry; and Michael Howard

*Staff Present:* Steven L. Devich, City Manager; Kristin Asher, Public Works Director; Chris Link, Operations Superintendent; Mary Tietjen, City Attorney and Cheryl Krumholz, Executive Coordinator.

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| <b>Item #1</b> | <b>DISCUSSION REGARDING SERVICE LINE WARRANTY OF AMERICA (COUNCIL MEMO NO. 94)</b> |
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Discussion was postponed to a future worksession because a representative from Service Line Warranty of America was unavailable this evening.

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| <b>Item #2</b> | <b>DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MEDIAN DESIGN ON THE 66<sup>TH</sup> STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT (COUNCIL MEMO NO. 94)</b> |
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Public Works Director Asher discussed the required Value Engineering study recently completed by Hennepin County. The study focuses on cost-saving and added value elements and resulted in multiple recommendations including the closing of up to six medians along the corridor.

Ms. Asher explained the rationale for the recommended closure of medians, including consistency with Hennepin County policy, added safety, enhanced crossings at transit stop locations and supported by Guiding Principles.

Ms. Asher reviewed the proposed location of the median closures between Portland and Nicollet Avenues and Penn Avenue to 35W.

Ms. Asher stated the staff recommendation is to move forward with the median closures in design and begin the neighborhood outreach to inform them of the future design.

Maury Hooper, Hennepin County, provided background on the Value Engineering study needed to secure federal funding, the purpose of the study and the main findings.

Council Member Elliott stated the closed medians compound the elimination of connectivity with the neighborhoods.

Mayor Goettel stated neighborhood input should be obtained before moving forward because the area is already so highly impacted with the removal of homes along 66<sup>th</sup> Street.

Council Member Howard agreed and suggested estimated pedestrian measurements be determined to clarify costs.

Council Member Garcia agreed with obtaining neighborhood input with the staff recommendation not the City Council's at this point.

Council Member Fitzhenry agreed the neighborhood should weigh-in on the decision.

Ms. Asher provided a project update on the metro sewer pipe lining, 66<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction, and the West Richfield Storm through Monroe Park.

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| <b>Item #3</b> | <b>DISCUSSION REGARDING THE LYNDALE/HUB/NICOLLET (LHN) MAINTENANCE DISTRICT (COUNCIL MEMO NO. 94)</b> |
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Operations Superintendent Link discussed the origin and history of the maintenance district, the current state of the district and possible adjustments to the district for consideration. He reviewed staff recommendations for the remainder of 2015, 2016-2018 (66<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction) and after reconstruction (entire corridor) and requested City Council guidance on proceeding.

Mr. Link stated that two property owners who have maintenance agreements with the City submitted a petition to be removed from the district.

Mayor Goettel expressed concern regarding losing the ability to maintain control of maintenance.

Ms. Asher stated that this type of maintenance district is no longer allowed. Special service districts are permitted.

City Attorney Tietjen explained the legal issues. She added that elimination of the district does not mean the City has no other tools available for enforcement.

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| <b>ADJOURNMENT</b> |
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:58 p.m.

Date Approved: November 10, 2015

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Debbie Goettel  
Mayor

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Cheryl Krumholz  
Executive Coordinator

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Steven L. Devich  
City Manager